

Testimony of

**Julie Berry**

**East Windsor Educator**

Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I am a Kindergarten teacher. I have been teaching for over 20 years. I am writing to support raising the kindergarten age and also to require some play based learning in Kindergarten. It has been my experience that older students are more developmentally ready to learn. My colleagues and I also believe that some play based learning teaches young students skills and topics in a more hands on developmentally appropriate way. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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